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Introduction





Beyond Chocolate is the Belgian multistakeholder initiative for a sustainable chocolate industry. The partnership, bringing together a wide coalition of organizations, is funded by Belgian Development Cooperation and managed by IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative. Partners in the initiative are working to make long-lasting improvements to the living conditions of cocoa farmers and their families in the cocoa growing regions that are relevant to the Belgian industry. The partnership intends to support cocoa growing communities in their development, ensure access to education for their children, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.





COMMITMENTS

Concretely, the partnership's commitments are the following:





By 2025 at the latest



All the chocolate produced and/or sold in Belgium shall comply with a relevant certification standard and/ corporate sustainability scheme.



Beyond Chocolate signatories comply with the Cocoa & Forest Initiatives in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. Deforestation due to cocoa growing for the Belgian chocolate sector has ended.



Deforestation due to cocoa growing for the Belgian chocolate sector has ended.

By 2030 at the latest



Cocoa growing households supplying to the Belgian market are able to earn at least a living income

VISION

Beyond Chocolate creates an enabling environment that empowers all stakeholders to take additional action towards a more sustainable cocoa value chain. Collaborative action and the sharing of responsibility across the public and private sectors will increase the impact of the partnership's joint effort, fostering synergies that go beyond the sum of individual contributions.





2023 MONITORING RESULTS

Beyond Chocolate partners are reporting annually on their progress vis-à-vis the partnership's goals. The 2023 reporting shows that:



The Beyond Chocolate partnership is on track to reaching its 2025 objective for the Belgian consumer market.

In 2023, 94% of the chocolate sold in Belgium (B2C) by signatories was certified/covered by a company scheme. Belgian companies have clearly made the choice to source cocoa more responsibly. As a result becomes increasingly complicated for consumers to find chocolate that is not covered by a sustainability approach For the chocolate produced in Belgium (B2B) – thus also covering chocolate made in Belgium but exported abroad - 70% was certified/covered by a company scheme, a 3% increase compared to the previous year.

Efforts need to accelerate for the partnership to ensure that next to chocolate sold and consumed in Belgium, all chocolate produced in Belgium is also certified/covered by a company scheme by 2025, with particular attention for the chocolate destined for export.



While there is clearly a shift towards more investments in sustainability, the impact generated at farmer level remains limited.

2023 data show that partners are effectively investing in traceability and measuring farmer incomes more consistently. This provides much better insights into challenges to close living income gaps and how to address them. However, apart from a number of 'islands of success', progress in terms of farmer household incomes remains very limited. External sources reveal that poverty and deforestation have hardly decreased in West-Africa in the past seasons.

THE BEYOND CHOCOLATE CO-FINANCING FUND

Under Beyond Chocolate a co-financing fund of 2 million euros was made available by Belgian Development Cooperation for sustainability projects in cocoa. This fund is an engine for change, allowing to test scalable high impact models, triggering investments for sustainable production, and bringing

new sustainable products to the Belgian market. Eight sustainability projects were approved for co-financing, of which 3 ended by early 2023. The main learnings are summarized in the report (from page 9).





Monitoring Results



Introduction

This Beyond Chocolate annual report shares key insights on the collective achievements of signatories in 2023, based on data gathered through a reporting framework. This framework has been developed collaboratively with signatories and meticulously harmonized with the other ISCOs to ensure consistency and reducing the reporting burden for signatories.

All signatories reported on indicators touching on the impact themes of Beyond Chocolate, namely Certification Transparency, Living Income, Deforestation and Child Labour.

The primary objective of this year's results presentation is to provide a more precise assessment of the partnership's progress and to enhance accountability within the partnership. This is achieved by simultaneously offering insights of the collective progress overviews of each signatory's performance against the Beyond Chocolate commitments.



NUANCES AND LIMITATIONS

Before delving into the key insights, it's crucial to acknowledge some key aspects related to the data collection and reporting process:

- The data presented in this report is voluntary self-reported by Beyond Chocolate signatories without external verification and validation. Beyond Chocolate signatories remain responsible for the quality of data they submit
- Although the large majority of the Belgian cocoa sector is represented in the partnership, not all Belgian companies have signed Beyond Chocolate. Therefore, this report reflects the progress of Beyond Chocolate signatories only.
- The majority of data reflects the global market, with adjustments made for the Belgian context using weighted averages related to the volume of cocoa imported, processed, manufactured and or supplied to the market in the Netherlands.
- This will also result in some double counting between the different ISCOs, as well as between different actors in the supply chain (e.g., traders and their clients).
- Please note there might be a certain degree of instability when comparing year-over-year aggregated results due to (a) new signatories joining the partnership and (b) adaptations made to improve the reporting framework.

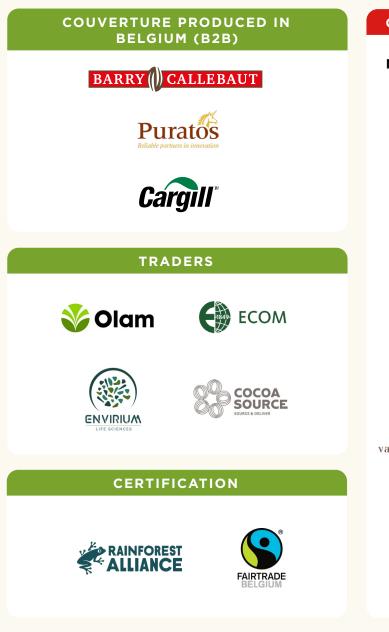
It is key to stress that the aim of the presented insights is providing a snapshot on the progress of Beyond Chocolate commitments at a wider sectorial level that can be used as a reference to further address, develop, discuss the way forward to achieve a more sustainable cocoa sector.





REPORTING PARTNERS

The following partners have reported on the overall Beyond Chocolate commitments for 2023:





In case you are interested in joining the partnership, please register on the Beyond Chocolate website.



The European Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa (ISCO's)



GISCO

German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa *June 2012*



SWISSCO

Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa January 2018



Beyond Chocolate

Partnership for a more sustainable Belgian cocoa sector December 2018



DISCO

Dutch Initiative for Sustainable Cocoa August 2020



FRISCO

French Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa *May 2021*



their collaboration and their common endeavor to realize a more sustainable cocoa sector. The initial MoU signed by Beyond Chocolate, SWISSCO and GISCO was joined by DISCO in January 2021 and by FRISCO in September 2022. The ISCO's have identified four common challenges and are jointly developing strategies to address the following four challenges:

The ISCO's have identified four common challenges:



Contribute to a living income for cocoa farmers and their families



Halt cocoa-related deforestation and promote sustainable reforestation and biodiversity



End child labor and forced labor in the cocoa value chain



Enhance transparency in the cocoa value chain

One of the action points identified in the MoU was the harmonization of monitoring frameworks between the ISCOs. Over the past years, the ISCOs have evolved from each having their own set of indicators and reporting timelines to one joint monitoring framework, timeline, and online monitoring tool. This harmonization has reduced

the reporting burden for international companies and allows for a better view of the general progress made on the European market. The joint monitoring framework is reviewed and reworked each year by the ISCO working group on monitoring.



Results and Progress

The below data gives insights in progress made within the partnership towards our common goal of 100% certified cocoa (and the key challenges...) and the key challenges to move towards sustainable cocoa value chain, identified by the ISCOs¹, namely living income for farmers, deforestation, child labour and transparency and traceability.

100% certified and/or covered by a sustainability scheme

By 2025, 100% of chocolate produced and/or sold in Belgium will be certified and/or covered by a corporate sustainability scheme.

Response rate: 100% 29 out of 30 partners have reported data on their progress vis-à-vis their 2025 target.

To cover the full scope of the partnership, i.e. all chocolate(s) produced and/or sold in Belgium, the 2023 data are divided into two categories. The three Belgian chocolate makers - Barry Callebaut, Cargill and Puratos - report on the couverture chocolate they produce in Belgium (B2B). Consumer brands and retailers report on chocolate sold on the Belgian consumer market (B2C). For retailers, the reporting is at this stage limited to their private label brands.

2023 data show that 94.20% of the 34.476 MT chocolate sold by signatories on the Belgian consumer market (B2C) is now certified/covered by a company scheme, a 4% increase compared to the previous year. This means that brands and retailers that are Beyond Chocolate signatories are getting closer to the 2025 commitment for all volumes sold in Belgium. Belgian companies have clearly made the choice to source cocoa more responsibly. As a result becomes increasingly complicated for consumers to find chocolate that is not covered by a sustainability approach.

70% of chocolate produced in Belgium is now certified and/or covered by a corporate sustainability scheme. This translates to a modest 3% increase in certified/company scheme B2B chocolate compared to the previous year. Given that Barry Callebaut, Cargill, and Puratos represent over 90% of the Belgian B2B couverture chocolate market, this figure provides a comprehensive overview of the sector. While progress is clear at the level of the Belgian consumer market, it remains challenging for Belgian companies to sell sustainability solutions in markets where the topic is less high up the agenda.

The individual performance overview (Figure 1) shows that most partners are close to reaching the 100% goal, and only a limited number is lagging behind. Preliminary findings indicate varying progress across market segments, with retailers demonstrating strong performance, SMEs showing mixed results, brands achieving considerable improvements, and traders reporting progress.



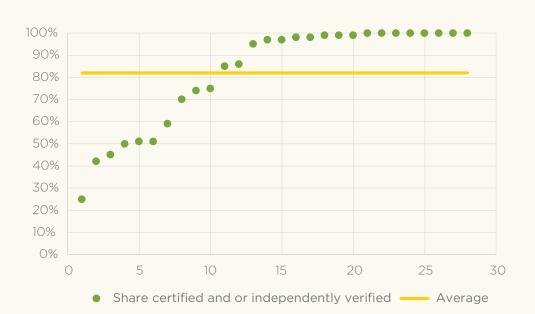
Figure 1: Evolution of the share of corporate program/certified cocoa in B2B and B2C



Reporting members B2B: Cargill, Barry Callebaut, Puratos

Reporting members B2C: Baronie, Nestlé, Mars, Mondelez, Tony's, Aldi, Carrefour, Delhaize, Lidl, Galler, Vandenbulcke, Libeert, Guylian, Neuhaus, Gudrun Group, Oxfam, Kim's Chocolates, Leonidas, Ovidias, Belgian Chocolate Group

Figure 2: Beyond Chocolate signatories' individual performance on share of corporate program and/or certified cocoa



Reporting partners: Aldi, Baronie, Barry Callebaut, Belgian Chocolate group, Cargill, Carrefour, Cocoa source, Colruyt, Delhaize, ECOM, Envirium, Galler, Gudrun Group, Guliyan, Kim's chocolate, Leonidas, Libeert, Lidl, Mars, Mondelez, Nestlé, Neuhaus, Olam, Ovidias, Oxfam, Puratos, Tony's Chocolonely, Vandenbulcke

Improving transparency and traceability in the cocoa value chain

Enhancing the sustainability of cocoa farming and of the whole cocoa sector is not possible without adequate transparency and traceability in the cocoa supply chain.

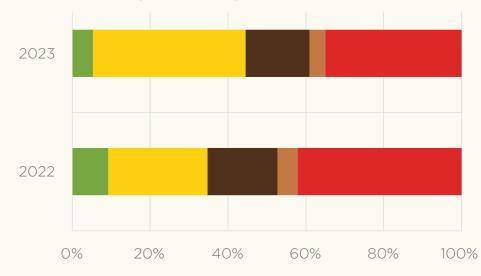
Analysis of traceability data reveals a positive trend: partners are increasingly investing in cocoa traceability, resulting in a decrease in cocoa volumes of unknown origin.

For B2C signatories, this translates in more traceability all the way to the farm level, while B2B partners report less cocoa traced to the farm level, but more cocoa traced to at least the origin level. Notably, partners further up in the value chain are reporting increased traceable volumes.

This progress on traceable cocoa is expected to accelerate in the coming years due to evolving legislative requirements, particularly the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

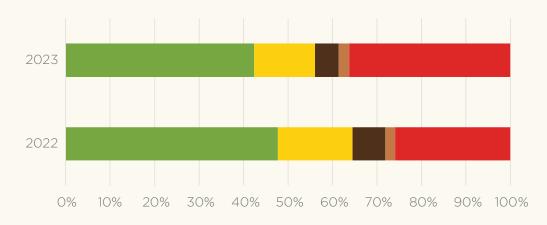


Figure 3: Share of volumes per traceability score B2B



	2022	2023
Origin unknown	9.25%	5.31%
Country known	25.52%	39.23%
■ Cooperative known	17.91%	16.48%
 Farm known and having at least one coordination per farm (farm mapping) 	5.20%	4.02%
■ Farm known, having point coordinates and /or polygons for plots less than 4ha and polygon boundaries of the plots bigger than 4ha	42.12%	34.96%

Figure 4: Share of volumes per traceability score B2C



	2022	2023
Origin unknown	47.49%	37.74%
Country known	16.73%	12.12%
■ Cooperative known	7.36%	4.76%
 Farm known and having at least one coordination per farm 	2.19%	2.07%
Farm known having point coordinates and/or polygons for plots bigger than 4ha	25.78%	32.25%

Contributing to a living income for cocoa farmers and their families

The Beyond Chocolate signatories have the joint ambition to enable living incomes for all farmers linked to the Belgian market by 2030.

For partners to contribute to this 2030 commitment, they need to:

- Know where their cocoa comes from;
- Identify benchmarks and measure living income gaps for the farming households in their supply chain;
- Implement living income strategies² for the farming households in their supply chain.

The data shows that about 15% of the farming households in the partners' supply chain are currently covered by living income strategies (equal to the 2022 result). However, a positive development is demonstrated by the steep increase of farming households with a monitored income, from 7% in 2022 to 30% this year (Table 1).

Nevertheless, the figure below clearly demonstrates that only a smaller number of farming households benefit from living income interventions. The majority of households linked to the Beyond Chocolate partnership are still earning below 40% of a living income benchmark, and only 13% earns an income beyond the benchmark.

In 2023, 9 partners claimed to have paid the LIRP for a total of 33,823 MT-BE. Last year the LIRP was paid for a volume of 30,171 MT-BE by 5 partners.

Looking at the individual performance (Figure 6), partners are showing different levels of actions. While only a few frontrunners seem to be very well ahead in their interventions, there is a small group of well-equipped implementers, and a larger group is at the initial stages of strategy implementation and income monitoring.

²A living income strategy is a strategy with the explicit goal to enable cocoa farming households to earn a living income. A living income strategy includes a monitoring and learning component. A living income strategy uses a combination, or "smartmix" of strategies that target multiple income drivers. Multiple income drivers* are being assessed strategically for the purpose of closing the living income gap** The interventions for each driver depend on the current situation of those drivers and to what extent addressing these drivers can help close the living income gap among different segments and profiles of farmers. Strategies that can improve income drivers go beyond addressing changes in the farm system and household behaviour These strategies include improved procurement practices. They range from service delivery for improved production and processing, to brand and consumer engagement, and to improving the enabling environment. A living income strategy goes beyond income generating activities (IGAs) that do not have the explicit aim of closing living income gaps. *land size, yield, price, cost of production, diversified incomes **the difference between the actual household income and the existing living income benchmark.



Table 1: Living Income results 2023

	2022		2023	
Datapoint	Weighted average	Partners reporting	Weighted average	Partners reporting
Share of households in Beyond Chocolate signatories' direct supply chain with a living income strategy implemented	19%	9	15%	10
Share of households in Beyond Chocolate signatories' direct supply chain with the gap measured	3%	7	30%	10

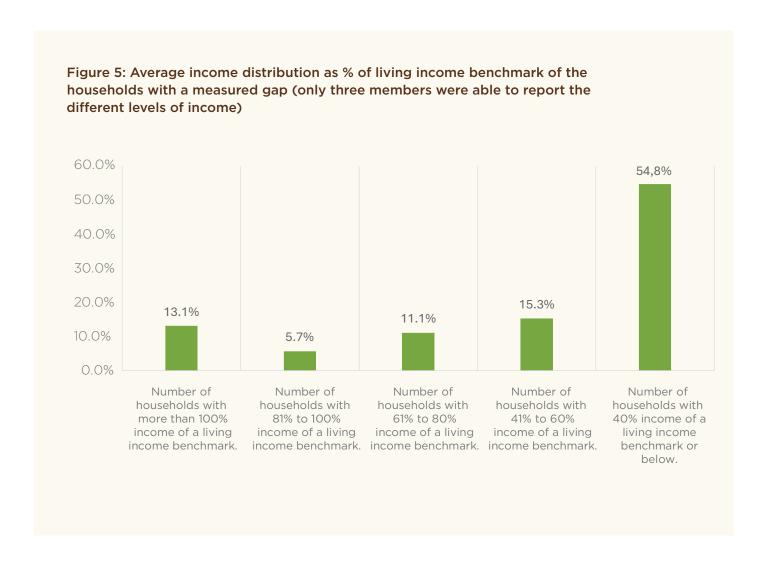
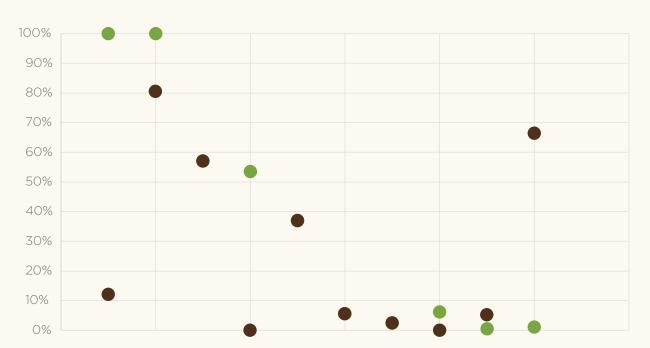




Figure 6: Individual performances on living income strategies implemented and living income gaps monitored



- Share of households in Beyond Chocolate signatories' direct supply chain with a living income strategy implemented
- Share of households in Beyond Chocolate signatories' direct supply chain with the gap measured

Reporting partners: Envirium Life Sciences, Tony's, Ecom, Cocoasource, Mondelez, Nestlé, Puratos, Mars, Barry Callebaut, Olam

Ending cocoa-related deforestation and promoting sustainable reforestation and biodiversity

The Beyond Chocolate Partnership aims to end deforestation due to cocoa growing for the Belgian chocolate sector by 2025.

Beyond Chocolate's goal is supported by initiatives like the Cocoa & Forests Initiative (CFI). This initiative is a joint commitment from major cocoa-producing countries and leading chocolate and cocoa companies to eliminate deforestation and restore forests. This commitment includes a pledge to stop converting any more forest land for cocoa production.

The 2023 data confirms the signature of Beyond Chocolate partners on the national initiatives to end deforestation applicable for the countries they source from (Figure 7). These signatories report on their progress in these initiatives yearly. However, being a CFI signatory does not directly result in being able to claim 100% deforestation-free cocoa.

The establishment of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)³ will level the playing field for the sector by imposing stringent due diligence requirements and exclude products that contributed to deforestation from the European market. Effective from end 2025, companies will have to demonstrate that their products are deforestation-free, legally sourced, and traceable through robust risk assessments, supply chain mapping, and transparent reporting

Looking at the individual performances (Figure 8), there are only a few frontrunners who can claim fully deforestation free cocoa from their supply chain, whereas most of the partners can claim very low shares of deforestation-free cocoa. Yet, compared to the previous year, the whole partnership together has shown significant progress in deforestation-free supply chain:

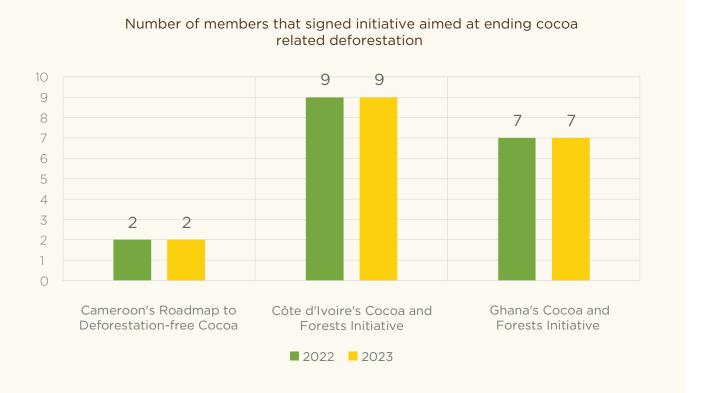
- 2022 -13% of the B2B volumes claimed "deforestation-free"
- 2023- 32% of the B2B volumes claimed "deforestation-free"



³For more info on EUDR: visit the EU website at this <u>link</u>.



Figure 7: Companies that signed national initiatives aiming to end cocoa related deforestation for the countries they source from







Ending child labour and forced labour in the cocoa value chain

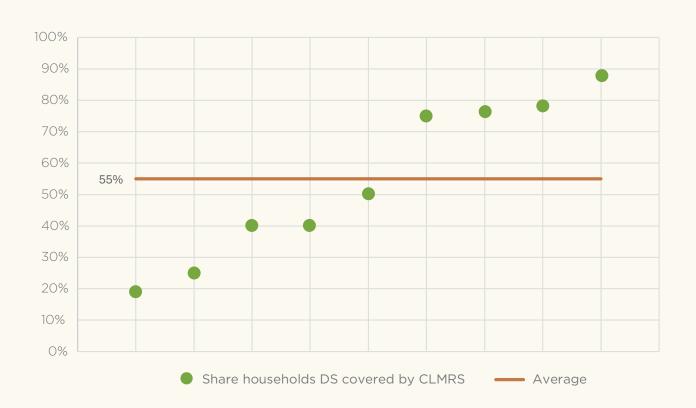
The Beyond Chocolate Partnership comprises several goals and ambitions with respect to eliminating forced labor, extending schooling, and ending (the worst forms of) child labor in the cocoa value chain. Even though these goals do not appear explicitly in the 2025 and 2030 commitments, they are an implicit part of the living income commitment and part of the four common ISCO challenges.

From the data reported, Beyond Chocolate partners seem to have more systems in place to address child labour and forced labour in their direct supply chains. In 2023, 45%

of the cocoa farming households in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria supplying to Beyond Chocolate partners were covered by Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation Systems (CLMRS⁴), in 2022 it was 32%.

The data indicates that the level of CLMRS implementation varies significantly across the partnership. The Figure 9 illustrating the individual performances indicates that each partner is at a different maturity in the CLRMS implementation.

Figure 9: Signatories' individual share of households in direct supply chain covered by CLMRS



⁴For more info on EUDR: visit the EU website at this <u>link</u>.





Co-Financing Fund



3.1 Introduction

A new co-financing fund of 1.5 million euros was made available in 2023. The Beyond Chocolate Steering Committee set ambitious criteria for the projects. While in the 2020 call for proposals the projects could focus on either of the Beyond Chocolate objectives, the new call for proposals focused on living income specifically. Eight concept notes were submitted but none were mature enough to be approved. Therefore, Beyond Chocolate opened a new open call for proposals where partners can submit proposals by early October 2024. The criteria of the proposals are the same as for the 2023 call.

Three of the eight projects from the 2020 co-financing fund have ended in 2023 while the others are still ongoing. Learnings, successes, and conclusions from the projects are shared in this chapter. The Beyond Chocolate secretariat will continue to work with project partners to upscale the projects and encourage the sector to replicate successful models.

Farming Household



Income Measurement. How do we choose the best approach for measuring income and income gaps for different goals?



Segmentation. What services are needed for which farms/coops? What are useful segmentation models/frameworks to use?



Smart Mix Strategies. To what extent do interventions around different income drivers affect household incomes? What tools or mechanisms can most effectively assess impact of income drivers and integrated smart-mix solutions?



Farmer Decision making. What drives adoption of 'income driving interventions'? What factors influence farmers to reinvest their income into cocoa quantity and quality?

Business Model



Supply Chain Models. How can supply chain actors effectively demand and supply 'living income cocoa'? What are principles of effective partnerships that enable living income?



Procurement Practices. How do specific procurement practices – including price as a key income driver and other practices such as long term contracts – affect incomes?



Branding. What is needed to build the business case for LI branded products? How best to tell the story?

Enabling Environment



Landscapes. How can living income be enabled through a landscape approach? How can a landscape approach benefit from a deliberate living income roadmap?



Resilience. How do we effectively link our strategies with public policies and programmes that affect household income such as gender equity, youth employment and child labour?





A living income for cocoa farmers in Côte d'Ivoire

Colruyt Group, Rikolto International, Puratos, ECSP, Agro Insight, Fairtrade Belgium and Access Agriculture

Project summary

In this project, partners across the value chain are implementing an integrated approach to securing a living, working on six different parameters: Price, productivity, diversification, agroforestry, access to finance, and quality. Partners have jointly developed a price model that allows farmers in the project to receive the Living Income Reference Price (LIRP). The cocoa produced under this project is processed in the Boni 72% chocolate bar of Colruyt Group, a new living income bar on the Belgian market.

Colruyt scales up living income approach following positive results from the pilot project.

From now on, all standard 100 g and 200 g Boni Selection chocolate tablets in the Colruyt, Okay, Spar Colruyt Group and Comarkt/Comarché stores come from a direct chain in which Colruyt Group works together with Fairtrade, Rikolto and Puratos, among others. This sustainable partnership started in 2020 and is designed to offer cocoa farmers in Ivory Coast and other countries a living income. Four years ago, the Boni 72% chocolate tablet was already a first result of this collaboration and since this spring, the project has been scaled up to all standard 100 g and 200 g Boni tablets. The brand-new packaging is currently being introduced gradually in the Colruyt Group stores.



San Pedro Côte d'Ivoire



102
Cocoa families reached
(1.015 farmers)



2020-2023



Budget **€529.166**

- Private sector€377.925
- Public sector€154.881



Impact, conclusions and learnings

An external impact assessment by Impact Institute shows that the payment of the Living Income Reference Price (LIRP) has contributed to a significant increase of household income with 31% and an increase in revenue from cocoa with 38%.

Other relevant results achieved during the whole project:

- Cocoa farmers have improved their production per hectare by nearly 20% which brings the yield to 649 Kg/Ha on average compared to 525 Kg/Ha at the beginning of the project.
- Farmers under the project received a price that was 64% higher price per kilogram for their cocoa than the average cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire for the 2022/2023 crop season. This indicates that price and quality premiums area a key driver of household income. It also indicates that a higher price alone is not enough. Farmers also need sufficient land, a high enough productivity and income from other complementing sources.
- The average household income of the 102 households is \$3,132 for the cocoa season of 2021-2022. This indicates that farmers earn on average 45% of the living income benchmark which is set at \$6,904 per year.
- The quality of cocoa has been improved generating additional revenue through premiums and bonuses;
- Increased investments by farmers in additional income generating activities have taken place thanks to increased access to finance for individual cocoa farmers;
- 100,000 trees have been planted, however it is too early to report on tangible impacts of agroforestry (CO2 capture etc.)



As this project concludes, it's crucial to emphasize the need for continued monitoring of how price and other factors affect the living income of cacao farmers.

Learn more about this project in this interview with Karen Janssens: <u>link</u>





Accelerating cocoa farmers towards a living income

Tony's Chocolonely, ECAM, SOOCOPACDI, Ecojad, Kapatchiva

Project summary

The objective of this project was to support four Tony's Open Chain cooperatives in Côte d'Ivoire to be able to deliver according to Tony's 5 Sourcing Principles. Tony's 5 Sourcing Principles are focused on traceable beans, a higher cocoa price, strong farmers, long term relationships, and productivity and quality. This ensures the long-term support and sustainability of the partner cooperatives in Côte d'Ivoire, thus enabling the scale of Tony's Open Chain.

Impact, conclusions and learnings

- Over 13,000 farmers positively impacted in 6 cooperatives in Cote d'Ivoire
- The project activities were initially planned to cover 4 of Tony's Open chain's partner
- cooperatives. During the course of the project, two more cooperatives were included in the scope of the activities (within the same budget), thus increasing the overall impact of the project to cover 23.5% more farmers
- 100% of farmers in all cooperatives in the scope of the project have access to professionalised labour brigades
- Child labour prevalence rates in Tony's Open Chain's long term partner cooperatives is less than 5%



Divo, Meagui, Bonon & Daloa Côte d'Ivoire



6.654Cocoa farmers impacted



2020-2023



Budget **€744.838**

- Private sector€498.865
- Public sector€245.973





Beyond Trees, towards better incomes for cocoa farmers

Cargill, Pur Projet Empow'Her

Project summary

This project aimed to promote sustainable cocoa production and reforestation through community-based initiatives. A key component of this is empowering women by supporting the development of women-managed microenterprises.

Impact, conclusions and learnings

The 2020-2023 BEYOND TREES project promoted cocoa-agroforestry and off-farm reforestation in Côte d'Ivoire, involving 715 farmers. Key outcomes include:

- Tree distribution: Over 120,000 shade and fruit trees were delivered to farmers, exceeding the initial goal. Monitoring shows a promising 60% survival rate.
- Women's empowerment: 110 women received technical and business training, and 24 were supported in establishing micro-enterprises through an incubation program.
- Community impact: The project fostered long-term engagement with the CSC and CAGNAN cooperatives, with continued tree distribution planned for 2024.

Looking ahead, the project has identified planting potential within the communities as an opportunity to expand the agroforestry and reforestation efforts. Furthermore, there's a strong possibility of developing long-term, sustainable activities that will benefit the communities even after the project's formal conclusion. Critically, continued support for the women's micro-enterprises is essential to ensure their long-term viability and success, maximizing the positive impact of the project.



San-Pédro, Bas Sassandra District Côte d'Ivoire



1.200
Cocoa farmers
impacted



2020-2023



Budget **€763.695**

- Private sector€510.454
- Public sector€253.241





Direct market access for Ituri smallholder farmers

ZOTO, Silva Cacao, Rikolto, UPCCO, Cacao Okapi

Project summary

This project aimed to boost smallholder cocoa farmers' incomes in Ituri, DRC, and reduce the on-going pressure on natural resources by developing two new value chains: farm-fermented premium certified regional cocoa and specialty cocoa. Farmers are trained in improved post-harvest processing, and two local companies are empowered to export directly, capturing higher prices.



Ituri province, Mambasa & Irumu territories DRC



1.500

Cocoa farmers impacted



2021-2024

Reporting on March 2021 - February 2022



Budget **€425.665**

- Private sector€224.165
- Public sector€201.500



Impact, conclusions and learnings

A baseline living income study was conducted, and revealed that cocoa is the main income source, and farmers mainly grow other crops for personal consumption. Cocoa productivity in the region varies significantly, with some areas achieving 700 kg/ha, but the overall average remains below 400 kg/ha. Despite trainings offered by the project, farmers haven't fully adopted better farming practices, and insecurity has led to farm abandonment.

The project underestimated the difficulty of securing prefinancing for cocoa contracts, which impacted export volumes. However, progress has been made towards establishing future financing mechanisms. A proposal for blended finance solutions has been submitted to BIO-invest & ENABEL to de-risk the value chain in conflict zones. Silva Cacao provided substantial pre-financing, and Cacao Okapi secured a loan with risk coverage to complement this.

The project is considered to have driven a major positive impact on the Ituri cocoa sector. In fact, it introduced high-quality Congolese cocoa to international markets, empowering young cooperatives to prioritize quality over volume. This effort earned international recognition, including a cocoa award. While Fairtrade certification proved unsuitable, organic certification was achieved, though its long-term sustainability is questionable. The project highlights the need for market re-evaluation of certification schemes to ensure genuine sustainability and increased farmer incomes.









Landscapes for cocoa livelihoods

MDLZ, CIAT, Olam, Sustainable Food Lab

Project summary

The Landscapes for Cocoa Livelihoods project aims to

- Increase cocoa farmer incomes through sustainable intensification of cocoa farming or forest conservation around farms.
- Enhance existing sustainability efforts by providing a targeted information service, using high-resolution land classification and ecosystem impact projections, to improve the environmental a d social impact of current initiatives.
- Establish a scalable sustainable sourcing model to develop and test a
 cost-effective and robust landscape approach that aligns market and
 supply chain goals with the needs of cocoa-growing communities.

Latest progress

The Landscape for Cocoa Livelihoods project made significant strides in the first half of 2024, reducing deforestation by 71% compared to predictions and successfully implementing a 99% accurate deforestation alert system in six Ghanaian cocoa communities near the Tano Ofin Forest Reserve. Training Forest Guards and creating a network of Forest Advocates strengthened community engagement and forest preservation.

Next steps of the project is to refine governance, improve communication, and address forest governance and accountability challenges. By leveraging technology, collaborating with the Forestry Commission, and maintaining community involvement, the project aims to further scale its impact. Lessons learned will inform replication efforts in other areas, with a focus on stakeholder outreach and engagement.



Landscape around Tano Offin reserve, Atwima Mponua district

Ghana



650

Cocoa farmers impacted



2020-2024



Budget **€1.141.393**

- Private sector€802.000
- Public sector€339.393





Project Farmers-Chocolatiers Sustainable partnership

Puratos, Fairtrade Belgium, Belvas

Main outcomes in 2023

The project aims to secure a living income for 1000 Cacao-Trace and Fairtrade farmers by engaging in an innovative qualitative conversion and long-term commercial partnership. The project partners will ensure that the farmers participating will receive the Living Income Reference Price, and have ensured a market access through long-term contracts.

In 2023, six fermentation centers became operational, thanks to partnerships with four cooperatives boasting a combined capacity of 900 metric tons of cocoa (and involving 700 households). One of these new post-harvest centers was allocated to Colruyt to scale up their Living Income program.



San Pedro Côte d'Ivoire



1.000

Cocoa farmers impacted



2021-2023



Budget **€482.000**

Private sector€382.000

Public sector€100.000





Sustainable, organic and high-quality cocoa production

Galler, Enabel-TDC, Yeyasso, Fairtrade & ZOTO

Main outcomes in 2023

2023 was a turning point for the Yeyasso project, marked by both challenges and significant progress. Despite a 16% drop in cocoa productivity due to climate change, cocoa farmers saw a 9% increase in field price. However, this wasn't enough to offset the productivity loss, resulting in a 10% decrease in cocoa revenue per hectare. Crucially, income diversification, driven by the cooperative's efforts, more than doubled non-agricultural income and led to an overall 25% increase in average household income. Specifically, Chocolaterie Galler purchasing under Fairtrade conditions resulted in a 12% increase in cocoa income, significantly reducing the number of farmers living in extreme poverty (from 12% to 5%) or between poverty and extreme poverty (from 25% to 11%). The project identifies diversification and land area as the two main factors influencing producers' overall income.

Main learnings

This project is delivering significant benefits to farming communities, including transparent premium payments and investments in water infrastructure, education, and income-generating ventures. While the connection between chocolatiers and specific communities isn't always visible, it builds trust among stakeholders. The project's impact process is established in the initial five communities. However, the current collaborative model with exporters and cooperatives raises concerns about its long-term viability and scalability. Although farmers and customers are receptive to the concept, Puratos will likely need to adjust aspects of the project to ensure its success and reduce reliance on external partners.



Tonkpi Côte d'Ivoire



150

Cocoa farmers reached



2020-2025



Budget **€352.000**

Private sector€250.000

Public sector€102.000



Overview of events and working groups



The Beyond Chocolate Partnership brings together know-how and expertise on sustainable cocoa production and creates a context in which best and worst practices can be openly shared.



STEERCO MEETINGS

23/01/2024 24/04/2024 30/08/2024 17/11/2024

BEYOND CHOCOLATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

09/11/2024

MORE INFO

24/10/2023

LIVING INCOME EXPERT WORKSHOP

05-06/12/2023

ISCO WORKING GROUPS

FIND OVERVIEW
OF ISCO WORKING
GROUPS HERE





Governance Structure

The Beyond Chocolate Partnership is managed by IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative with generous funding from the Directorate-General Development Cooperation. Partners are represented in the decision-making processes through the Beyond Chocolate Steering Committee, which provides strategic guidance and direction to the program. Outside of the national boarders, Beyond Chocolate is collaborating closely with the other National Initiatives on Sustainable Cocoa in Europe or 'ISCO's'.







Beyond Chocolate

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT



Employees of IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative who coordinate the Beyond Chocolate Program and prepare the Steering Committee meetings



Charles Snoeck Program Manager



Marloes Humbeeck Senior Program Officer

BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

Funding partner of the Beyond Chocolate Program



Belgium partner in development

STEERING COMMITTEE

gives direction to the IDH Secretariat on strategic program development and implementation issues and advises on new developments and priorities in the Belgian chocolate sector.

Find out more about the Steering Committee here

INDUSTRY

NGOs

INVESTORS



Philippe de Selliers representative small manufacturers



Koen van Troos Civil Society Representative



Wouter Vanderspyen Social Impact Investor Representative

KNOWLEDGE CENTERS







Patrick Van Damme Knowledge Center Representative



Alexia Herwig Public Sector Representative



Karen Janssens Retail representative

LARGE MANUFACTURERS



Ricardo Romero Perez Grovas Large manufacturer representative



Anne Widart Trader representative

NATIONAL INITIATIVES ON SUSTAINABLE COCOA IN EUROPEA (ISCO'S)

Partner initiatives that are bundling efforts with Beyond Chocolate for a sustainable cocoa value chain through collaborative action. The secretariats and boards of the initiatives have regular meeting to discuss our common strategy and activities.













CONTACT PERSONS - IDH

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